Abstract

A system and methods based thereon for a Value Chain Intelligence (VCI) system that enables suppliers and procurement professionals to leverage enterprise and marketplace data in order to potentially improve decision-making in business enterprises. In this system, internal data from enterprises and external data from suppliers, catalogs, and marketplaces are integrated and analyzed in real time for their impact on supply chains processes. The VCI system makes recommendations and alerts users based on the results of the integrated and analyzed data. Components in a VCI system may consist of internal data collection components, external data collection components, data integration components, and data application components. The system provides a plurality of methods for searching, extracting, transforming, integrating, analyzing, and representing data internal to an enterprise and data external to an enterprise. Various methods for implementing a plurality of software modules in a logical workflow process are also disclosed.